

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 04968 070953Z
ACTION IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2500
INFO NACC COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 4968

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PORG IN
SUBJ: NACC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING: THE OFFICIALS
MEET MIDST FLOOD OF AMENDMENTS

SUMMARY: AT THE OFFICIAL LEVEL MEETING OF THE NACC THE MORNING OF APRIL 6, INDIA WAS NAMED CHAIRMAN OF THE PLENARY SESSION, CUBA OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE AND NIGERIA OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEES DID NOT MEET AS SCHEDULED IN THE AFTERNOON BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO REVIEW NOT ONLY THE BASIC DOCUMENTS BUT THE GREAT NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS ALREADY SUBMITTED. THE NACC MEETING FORMALLY OPENS TODAY WITH THE SPEECH OF INDIAN PM DESAI. CUBA APPEARS TO BE EMERGING AS A MAJOR FORCE IN THE NACC. END SUMMARY.

1. INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY JAGAT MEHTA OPENED THE OFFICIAL LEVEL MEETING OF THE NACC THE MORNING OF APRIL 6 WITH AN APPEAL TO THE DELEGATIONS TO TAKE "DEFINITE AND MEANINGFUL" STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE COLOMBO SUMMIT PROGRAM ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION. MEHTA, ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, ASKED THE CONFERENCE TO REINFORCE ITS SENSE OF

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 04968 070953Z

UNITY AND DISAPPOINT ITS CRITICS WHO EXPECTED DIFFERENCES IN THE MOVEMENT. SHIRLEY AMERASINGHE OF SRI LANKA, ON BEHALF OF THE NACC FOREIGN SECRETARIES, COMPLIMENTED INDIA FOR DEMONSTRATING THE VITALITY OF ITS DEMOCRACY AND CONGRATULATED INDIA ON THE MANNER IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN CHANGED PEACEFULLY AND ORDERLY THROUGH A

DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. MEHTA RESPONDED THAT THE NACC WAS CONVENING IN NEW DELHI AT AN IMPORTANT STAGE IN INDIA'S DEMOCRATIC LIFE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE NEW GOVERNMENT TOOK OFFICE AND THAT THIS WAS A CLEAR INDICATION OF THE CONTINUITY OF INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY. MEHTA CONGRATULATED THE NACC FOR THE EXCELLENT PREPARATORY WORK DONE IN NEW YORK.

2. ACCORDING TO A BANGLADESHI DELEGATE, THE MEETING OF THE SENIOR OFFICIALS ON APRIL 6 AGREED UPON THE AGENDA AND THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE OFFICERS:

A. PLENARY: INDIA, CHAIRMAN; LIBERIA, VICE CHAIRMAN FOR AFRICA; GUYANA, VICE CHAIRMAN FOR LATIN AMERICA; YUGOSLAVIA, VICE CHAIRMAN FOR EUROPE; SYRIA, RAPPOREUR.

B. POLITICAL COMMITTEE: CUBA, CHAIRMAN; GUINEA, VICE CHAIRMAN.

C. ECONOMIC COMMITTEE: NIGERIA, CHAIRMAN; INDONESIA, VICE CHAIRMAN.

THERE WILL BE NO RAPPOREURS FOR THE COMMITTEES. THE GOI WILL PROVIDE SECRETARIAT ASSISTANCE. CUBA'S CHOICE TO HEAD THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE--WHICH WAS THE ONLY MAJOR ISSUE IN THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS--WAS CONFIRMED BY CYPRIOT AND GUYANESE DELEGATES.

3. THE COMMITTEES DID NOT MEET THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 6, REPORTEDLY BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO REVIEW THE GREAT NUMBER

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 04968 070953Z

OF AMENDMENTS FOR THE DRAFT COMMUNIQUE AS WELL AS THE BASIC DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE CONFERENCE. BOTH GUYANESE AND CYPRIOT DELEGATES HAVE TOLD US THEY WERE SNOWED UNDER WITH PAPER TO READ. AN MEA OFFICIAL EARLIER HAD CONFIRMED THAT DELEGATES WERE ARRIVING WITH PREPARED DOCUMENTS, EVEN BEFORE SEEING THE DRAFT COMMUNIQUE. ARUNDATE GHOSH, MEA ECONOMIC DIVISION, TOLD A BRITISH COLLEAGUE THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 5 THAT SHE HAD JUST COME FROM A MEETING WITH THE SRI LANKANS, UGOSLAVS AND CUBANS, WHICH HAD BEEN INTERRUPTED CONTINUALLY WITH DELEGATIONS DELIVERING MORE PAPER.

4. WE AS YET HAVE NO FIRM INDICATION OF THE NATURE OF THE AMENDMENTS BEING PUT FORWARD, BUT THE CYPRIOT DELEGATE EXPECTS TO BE CONFRONTED WITH PRO-TURKISH LANGUAGE. THE SOUTH KOREANS SAY THAT THE NORTH KOREANS ARE LOBBYING HEAVILY. THE PRESS NOTES TODAY THAT THE IRAQUIS ARE PUSHING FOR APERMANENT NACC SECRETARIAT AND THE YUGOSLAVS

FOR THEIR PROPOSAL ON COOPERATION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. AMBASSADOR JAIPAL TOLD US HE BELIEVED IT UNLIKELY THAT NACCFM WOULD REACH DECISION ON IRAQ PROPOSAL, AND MATTER PROBABLY WOULD BE CARRIED OVER FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION IN NEW YORK. THE IRAQIS, ACCORDING TO JAIPAL, ALSO ARE SUGGESTING NEW WAYS TO SCREEN PROSPECTIVE NAM MEMBERS.

5. THE SCHEDULE FOR TODAY, APRIL 7, IS THAT PRIME MINISTER MORARJI DESAI OPENS THE CONFERENCE AT 9:30. THE PLENARY IS THEN TO CONTINUE TO ONE PM; INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE IS SCHEDULED TO SPEAK AT THE CLOSED AFTERNOON SESSION. THE COMMITTEES WILL ALSO MEET IN THE AFTERNOON.

6. AN INTERESTING SIDELIGHT IS THE PRESENCE IN DELHI OF SHAH NAWAZ KHAN, A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FROM PAKISTANI PM BHUTTO, WHO HAS BEEN MEETING WITH INDIAN LEADERS, INCLUDING MORARJI DESAI. THE PRESS REPORTS THAT KHAN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NEW DE 04968 070953Z

RAISED THE ISSUE OF BHUTTO'S THIRD WORLD ECONOMIC SUMMIT PROPOSAL WITH THE INDIANS, WHO APPARENTLY WERE NONCOMMITTAL IN RESPONSE. THERE IS SOME SPECULATION THAT KHAN'S VISIT WAS TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH THE NACC AND THAT HE HAS ALSO BEEN LOBBYING AMONG DELEGATES FOR THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT PROPOSAL.

7. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT THE CUBANS ARE EMERGING AS A MAJOR FORCE IN THE NACC. THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE PRE-CONFERENCE PREPARATORY DISCUSSIONS OF THE SRI LANKANS, YUGOSLAVS AND INDIANS WAS THE FIRST INDICATION. THEIR CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE PLITICAL COMMITTEE, DESPITE THE RESERVATIONS OF THE INDIANS AND SOME OTHER NACC MEMBERS, IS A FURTHER SIGN THAT THE CUBANS INTEND TO MAKE THE MOST OF THEIR ROLE AS THE DESIGNATED HOST OF THE 1979 NAM SUMMIT.
SCHNEIDER

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LEVEL MEETING OF THE NAC
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